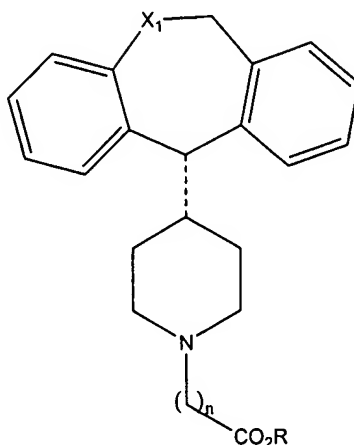


**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A compound represented by the following structural formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt[[s]] thereof, wherein:

(- - -) represents a ~~single or~~ double bond;

X[[1]]<sub>1</sub> is -O-, ~~S-, or CH<sub>2</sub>-~~;

n is an integer from 1 to 6;

the aryl rings are each optionally and independently substituted;

the alkylene spacer molecule between the piperidine and the -CO<sub>2</sub>R group

is substituted with a heteroatom or a cyclic substituent; and

R is -H, 2-propyl, 2-butyl, 2-pentyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, 3-

tetrahydrofuryl, 3-pentyl, 1,3-dimethoxy-2-propyl, 4-tetrahydropyranyl, 2,4-

dimethyl-3-pentyl, 1-methoxy-2-propyl, 1-3-diethoxy-2-propyl, or 2,2'-dimethyl-1-propyl.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein R is -H.

3. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim [[2]]1, wherein:

the aryl rings are each optionally and independently substituted, ~~and the~~

~~alkylene spacer molecule is independently substituted~~ with one or more groups selected from halogen, dimethylaminocarbonyl, fluoroalkyl, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, carboxylic acid, methylhydroxy, methylcarbonyl, cyano, aminomethyl, (aminoalkyl), ethoxycarbonylmethoxy, cyanomethyloxy, (acetoxylethyl)oxy, (hydroxyoxyethyl)oxy, morpholinoethyloxy, (tetrazol-5-

yl)methyloxy, carboxymethyloxy, dimethylaminocarbonylmethyloxy, morpholinocarbonylmethyloxy, (1-ethoxycarbonyl-1-methylethyl)oxy, (1-carboxy-1-methylethyl)oxy, (2-methoxyethyl)oxy, (1-dimethylaminocarbonyl-1-methylethyl)oxy, (1-ethoxycarbonyl)cyclobutoxy, (1-carboxy)cyclobutoxy, (1,1-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)oxy, (2,2-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)oxy, acyloxy, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, and substituted or unsubstituted amines.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim [[2]]1, wherein:  
the aryl rings are optionally and independently substituted with one or more substituents selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy,  $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-C(O)OR_4$ ,  $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-OC(O)R_4$ ,  $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-C(O)-NR_5R_6$  and  $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-NHC(O)O-R_4$ ;

wherein:

t is an integer from 0 to 3;

$-(CH_2)_t$  is substituted or unsubstituted; and

$R_4$ ,  $R_5$ , and  $R_6$  are independently hydrogen, an aliphatic group, a substituted aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a substituted aromatic group or a non-aromatic heterocyclic group, or  $R_5$  and  $R_6$ , taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, are a non-aromatic heterocyclic ring.

5. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim [[2]]1, wherein:  
the aryl rings are optionally and independently substituted ~~and the alkylene spacer molecule is independently substituted~~ with one or more of halogen, -OH, -CO<sub>2</sub>H, alkylimine, alkylsulfonyl, carboxamido, carboxylic alkyl esters, -CH=NH, -NO<sub>2</sub>, azido, cyano, fluoroalkyl, -CONR<sub>8</sub>R<sub>9</sub>, -NR<sub>8</sub>R<sub>9</sub>, -OS(O)<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>8</sub>R<sub>9</sub>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>8</sub>R<sub>9</sub>, sulfonic acid, sulfonamide, guanidino,  $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-C(O)OR_4$ ,  $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-OC(O)R_4$ ,  $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-C(O)-NR_5R_6$ ,  $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-NHC(O)O-R_4$ , -Q-H, -Q-(aliphatic group), -Q-(substituted aliphatic group), -Q-(aryl), -Q-(aromatic group), -Q-(substituted aromatic group), -Q-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-(substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group), -Q-(non-aromatic heterocyclic group) or -Q-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-(non-aromatic heterocyclic group);

wherein:

p is an integer from 1 to 5;

u is 0 or 1;

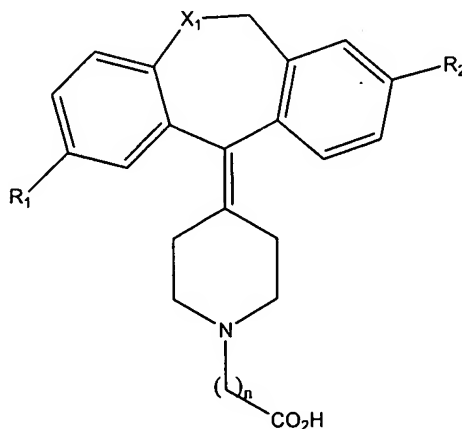
Q is -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -OS(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -C(O)-, -OC(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(O)C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)C(O)-, -C(O)NH-, -NHC(O)-, -OC(O)NH-, -NHC(O)O-, NH-C(O)-NH-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub> NH-, -NHS(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sub>7</sub>)-, -C(NR<sub>7</sub>)NHNH-, -NHNHC(NR<sub>7</sub>)-, -NR<sub>8</sub>C(O)- or -NR<sub>8</sub> S(O)<sub>2</sub>-;

R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, and R<sub>6</sub> are independently -H, an aliphatic group, a substituted aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a substituted aromatic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group, -NHC(O)-O-(aliphatic group), -NHC(O)-O- (aromatic group) or -NHC(O)-O-(non-aromatic heterocyclic group), or R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub>, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, are a non-aromatic heterocyclic ring;

R<sub>7</sub> is -H, an aliphatic group, a benzyl group, an aryl group or a non-aromatic heterocyclic group; and

R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently -H, hydroxy, an aliphatic group, a substituted aliphatic group, a benzyl group, an aryl group or a non-aromatic heterocyclic group.

6. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 2, wherein the compound is represented by the following formula:



wherein:

n is 1, 2, or 3;

R<sub>1</sub> = -H, -OH, -CH<sub>2</sub>OH, or -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH;

$R_2 = -H, -CH_3, -CF_3, -Cl, \text{ or } -Br;$

$X_1$  is  $-O-$ ; and

the alkylene spacer molecule is: ~~mono-substituted with a substituent other than a noncyclic alkyl group, disubstituted, geminally dialkylated, or substituted~~ with a cyclic substituent wherein one or more of the carbons of the spacer molecule is contained in the cyclic substituent.

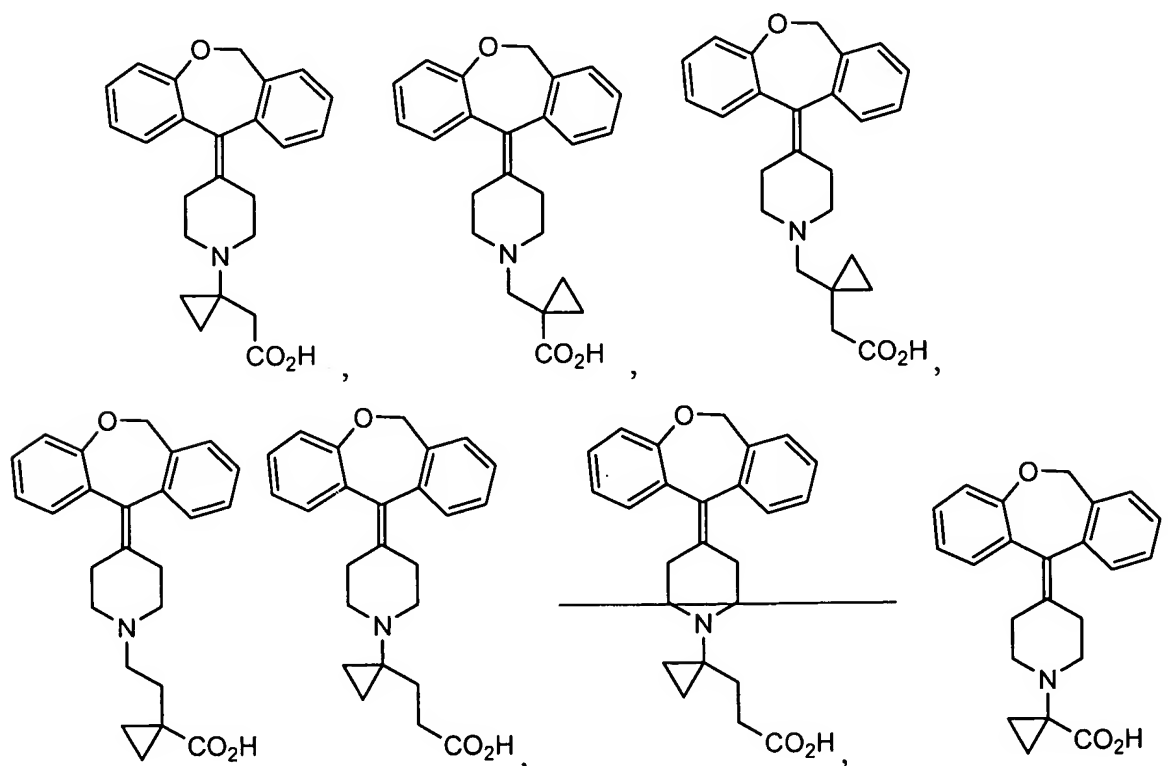
7.-12. (Canceled).

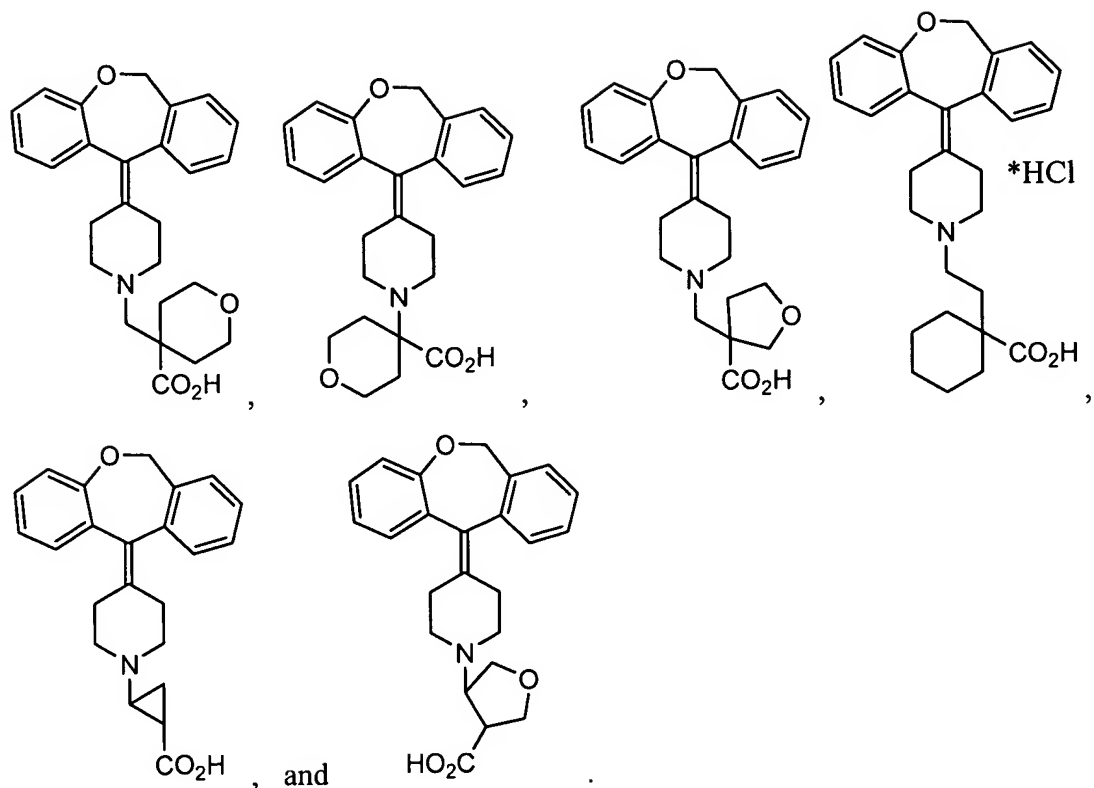
13. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim ~~[[12]]1~~, wherein the alkylene spacer is substituted with a ~~heteroatom or a~~ cyclic substituent.

14. (Original) The compound of claim 13, wherein the cyclic substituent is a cycloalkyl group or a cyclic ether group.

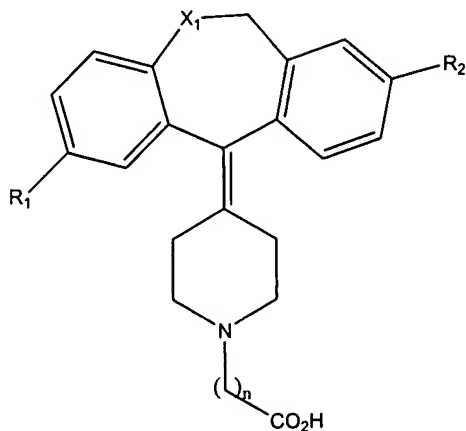
15. (Original) The compound of claim 14, wherein one or more of the carbons of the alkylene spacer is contained in the cyclic substituent.

16. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 15, wherein the compound is selected from the group of compounds consisting of:





17. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is represented by the following formula:



wherein:

$n$  is 1, 2, or 3;

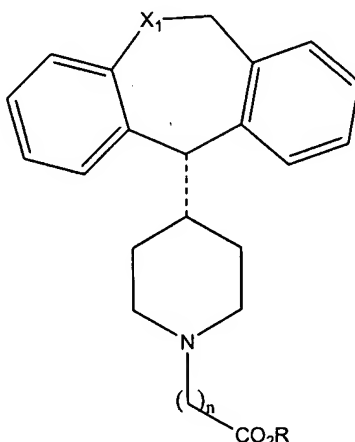
the alkylene spacer is substituted with a heteroatom or a cyclic substituent;

~~$R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently selected from, and the alkylene spacer molecule is independently substituted with, one or more groups selected~~

from halogen, dimethylaminocarbonyl, fluoroalkyl, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, carboxylic acid, methylhydroxy, methylcarbonyl, cyano, aminomethyl, (aminoalkyl), ethoxycarbonylmethoxy, cyanomethyloxy, (acetoxylethyl)oxy, (hydroxyoxyethyl)oxy, morpholinoethyloxy, (tetrazol-5-yl) methyloxy, carboxymethyloxy, dimethylaminocarbonylmethyloxy, morpholinocarbonylmethyloxy, (1-ethoxycarbonyl-1-methylethyl)oxy, (1-carboxy-1-methylethyl)oxy, (2-methoxyethyl)oxy, (1-dimethylaminocarbonyl-1-methylethyl)oxy, (1-ethoxycarbonyl)cyclobutoxy, (1-carboxy)cyclobutoxy, (1,1-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)oxy, (2,2-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)oxy, acyloxy, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, carbonyl, and substituted or unsubstituted amines; and

X<sub>1</sub> is -O-.

18. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein the cyclic substituent is selected from cyclopropyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, and cyclohexyl.
19. (New) A compound represented by the following structural formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

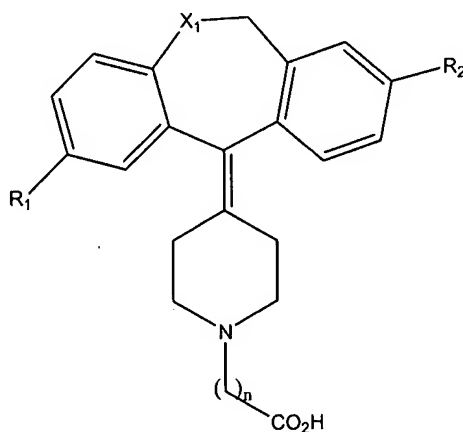
(- - -) represents double bond;

X<sub>1</sub> is -O-;

n is an integer from 1 to 6;

the aryl rings are each optionally and independently substituted;  
the alkylene spacer molecule between the piperidine and the  $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}$  group  
is substituted with cyclopropyl; and  
R is -H, 2-propyl, 2-butyl, 2-pentyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, 3-  
tetrahydrofuryl, 3-pentyl, 1,3-dimethoxy-2-propyl, 4-tetrahydropyranyl, 2,4-  
dimethyl-3-pentyl, 1-methoxy-2-propyl, 1-3-diethoxy-2-propyl, or 2,2'-dimethyl-1-  
propyl.

20. (New) A compound represented by the following structural formula:



wherein:

n is 1, 2, or 3;

the alkylene spacer is substituted with cyclopropyl;

$\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$  are independently selected from one or more groups selected from halogen, dimethylaminocarbonyl, fluoroalkyl, hydroxy,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkoxy, carboxylic acid, methylhydroxy, methylcarbonyl, cyano, aminomethyl, (aminoalkyl), ethoxycarbonylmethoxy, cyanomethyloxy, (acetoxylethyl)oxy, (hydroxyoxyethyl)oxy, morpholinoethyloxy, (tetrazol-5-yl) methyloxy, carboxymethyloxy, dimethylaminocarbonylmethyloxy, morpholinocarbonylmethyloxy, (1-ethoxycarbonyl-1-methylethyl)oxy, (1-carboxy-1-methylethyl)oxy, (2-methoxyethyl)oxy, (1-dimethylaminocarbonyl-1-methylethyl)oxy, (1-ethoxycarbonyl)cyclobutoxy, (1-carboxy)cyclobutoxy, (1,1-dimethyl-2-

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hydroxyethyl)oxy, (2,2-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)oxy, acyloxy, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, and substituted or unsubstituted amines; and

X<sub>1</sub> is -O-.